

FUNDING

DNR has funding to purchase conservation easements through the remainder of the 2013 to 2015 biennium. We prioritize applications based on the property's:

- Ecological value to salmon and other species.
- Potential benefits to water quality.
- Biological characteristics.
- Connectivity to other protected lands.
- Viability for conservation management actions.

Properties will be funded in order of priority until all funds have been expended. The remaining eligible applicants will be offered the opportunity to be considered for future funding opportunities.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Application forms can be downloaded from the DNR website, or requested from Dan Pomerenk in DNR's Forest Practices Division at: 360-902-1427 or by e-mail to:

dan.pomerenk@dnr.wa.gov

A selection committee will evaluate applications to determine a ranked order for purchases of conservation easements. If eligible applications exceed current funding, the remaining applicants can opt to be considered for future funding opportunities.



Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program

Purchasing
Conservation Easements
since 2002



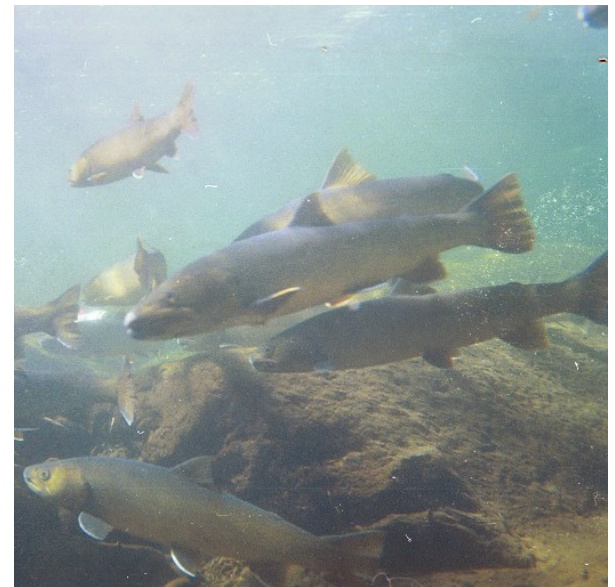
WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

Caring for your natural resources...now
and forever

OVERVIEW

The Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program helps ensure long-term conservation of aquatic and upland resources by acquiring permanent conservation easements. Forestlands with unconfined channel migration zones or critical habitat for state threatened and endangered species are eligible for the program.

The program is administered by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and funded by the Washington State Legislature. Since 2002, when funding first became available, 16 easements have been purchased to protect important habitat. Lands may be donated for a conservation easement at any time.



CHANNEL MIGRATION ZONE

A channel migration zone (CMZ) is the area where the active channel of a stream meanders back and forth.

CMZs are generally associated with large rivers that have less than a 2 percent gradient. They are found in valleys that are more than four times the width of the bankfull channel.

These areas typically have very high ecological value as spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and other fish species.

Under the forest practices rules, no timber harvesting or road construction may occur within channel migration zones due to their ecological importance.



CRITICAL HABITAT



Critical habitat is a designation that makes a special effort to protect important habitat characteristics for threatened and endangered species.

Washington's Forest Practice Rules recognize and protect critical habitat of eight upland species:

- Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*)
- Grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*)
- Marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)
- Mountain (woodland) caribou (*Rangifera tarandus*)
- Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*)
- Oregon silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria zerene hippolyta*)
- Pacific pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*)
- Sandhill crane (*Grus Canadensis*)



ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for a conservation easement under the Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program, your property must be:

- Located on forestland containing critical habitat for state threatened or endangered species designated as of particular concern by the Forest Practices Board.
- Identified as either "designated forest land" (Chapter 84.33 RCW) or "current use timber land" or "current use open space" (Chapter 84.34 RCW) on county assessor records.
- Free of unacceptable liabilities such as hazardous substances or other site conditions that may jeopardize the preservation of fisheries enhancement or ecological protection of the project area.

The landowner must provide DNR with adequate legal access to the property to process the application and administer the easement. All persons having a legal interest in the property must be willing to convey or subordinate their interest to the state for the conservation easement.